



## Parks as Classrooms Curriculum Guide Project

### Teacher Information Sheet

Thank you for interest in developing curriculum for Homestead National Monument of America's Parks As Classrooms Curriculum Guide Project. If this sheet does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact Tina Miller, Education Coordinator, at (402) 223-3514 or email her at [tina\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:tina_miller@nps.gov).

#### **What topic areas and grade levels do you need curriculum for?**

We need curriculum units for grades K-12. The breakdown in grade levels will be: K-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-12.

The topic areas (as they relate to the Homestead Act of 1862) that curriculum units are needed for are:

Abraham Lincoln	Fire	Prairie Animals
Biological Diversity	Frontier Education/One Room Schools	Prairie Habitats
Character Education	Homestead Act of 1862	Prairie Plants
Climate Change	Homesteaders/Pioneers/Immigrants	Recycling
Conservation/Preservation	Native Americans	Water Quality

#### **What are we expected to write?**

A template of how the lessons will be formatted in the curriculum units will be available under the curriculum materials page on Homestead's website. Each teacher (or group of teachers) will be expected to write two pre-visit lesson plans and two-post visit lesson plans. If you have suggestions for students to do during their museum experience (park visit), please pass them on the park's education team. We appreciate new ideas!

Teachers will be expected to site their sources and are encouraged to add technology to the lessons. In preparation for this project, Homestead has searched other National Park Service sites for lessons and has folders of some good examples and ideas that may be incorporated. However, original work is expected.

#### **How much will we be paid?**

The payment for the four lesson plans will be \$100. However, if you adapt your lessons to be used with Mobi or Smartboard technology with or without clickers (preferably with) you will earn an extra \$25. If you add any other type of technology, such as using wordle, ted.com, links to videos, etc. you will earn an extra \$25. There are so many technology resources out there, that you are not limited to what you can use. However, please make sure it is accessible without a fee, from a reputable site (we don't want to use links that will be gone in a short amount of time) and something that schools would not block.

#### **How will we be paid?**

Each teacher will be asked to fill out a W-9 and then paid a consultant fee upon completion of their portion of the curriculum unit. Curriculum units will be considered complete after all edits have been made.

## **How soon do you need the curriculum units?**

Each curriculum unit needs to be formatted into our template, edited for accuracy and adapted for distance learning by the park's education team. In order to do this by the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2010) curriculum units will be due to the park's education team by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Editing and formatting will be done from June 15<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Each teacher will be sent a copy of their curriculum unit for final proofing and those comments will be due by August 15<sup>th</sup>. These deadlines ensure the curriculum units will be produced by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The park's education team will start editing, adapting and formatting as soon as the curriculum units are turned in, so please turn in your curriculum units as soon as you are finished with them.

## **How do I get started?**

Homestead has a short application for you to fill out on their website. The application is primarily so we do not have four teachers working on the same topic and to have your contact information. Once you fill out your application someone on the park's education team will contact you and go over what is expected, deadlines, etc. and confirm your choice of topics with you.

## **What if I have a great idea for another topic, but not enough to do a whole unit?**

Please send the park's education team your idea and they will forward it to whoever is working on that curriculum unit. This is a collaborative effort and we appreciate everyone's input!

## **What form will the final product take?**

This curriculum guide has several different grade levels and would be very expensive to print. For this reason we have opted to use Homestead's website and flash drives to produce the curriculum guides. All the different curriculum units will be listed on the website under the appropriate topic heading with a link to the appropriate grade level. This will ensure teachers do not have to print every curriculum unit and only the ones they wish to use. We will have a link to print the entire curriculum guide for a grade level if a teacher wants it.

Flash drives will be produced with the curriculum units on them so that teachers may have it without accessing the internet. However, these flash drives will continue to grow with the project. For example, if we need to change something in our Homestead Act 1862 curriculum unit, the next time the teacher plugs their flash drive in it will bring up an interface that allows them to go to our website and update the information on their flash drive automatically. So the teacher will always have the most up to date information.